

The Token Creek Conservancy (TCC) and Wetland Complex you see today represents over 20 years of restoration efforts to return a former millpond back to a free flowing trout stream. Prior to the restoration, a series of grist mills were located on the creek and operated up to 1945.

Enjoy walking and hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing, snowshoeing, bird watching, and picnicking in this restored 190-acre natural environment.

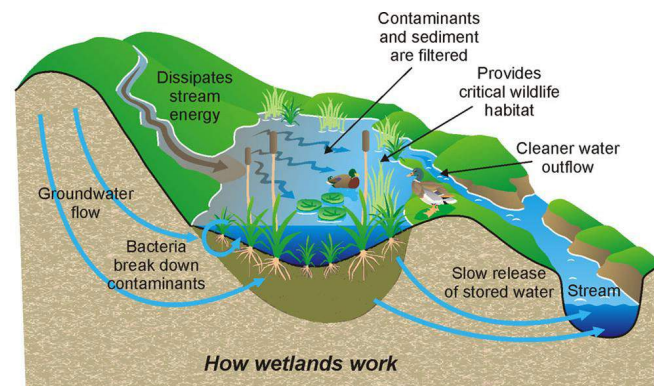
BIG HILL

In the late 1990's, Cecil and Bernadine Smith & Fred and Helen Chase donated the area known as Big Hill. The DeForest Area School District uses this unique area as a living classroom and is an important part of their curriculum.

The Big Hill is a glacial remnant called a Drumlin. Drumlins occurred when the glacial sheet began to melt. Holes and depressions formed in the ice sheet and debris accumulated in these depressions. When the ice melted, these deposits were stranded and perfect for quarrying. The south side of the hill where the existing prairie is located, was extensively quarried and reclaimed.

IMPORTANCE OF WETLANDS

Wetlands are important environmental features. They hold water much like a sponge and help minimize effects of flooding. They also help to filter and purify surface water, improve stream water quality and promote groundwater recharge. Finally wetlands provide a significant habitat for wildlife. For these reasons, wetlands are a protected category of land in the State of Wisconsin.



WETLANDS & SPRINGS

The TCC is home to the headwater springs of the Token Creek, which continues through to the nearby Token Creek County Park and then into Lake Mendota. The Token Creek is the largest single source of water to Lake Mendota with the cold water springs being the largest natural springs in southern Wisconsin.

Water is discharged from the springs at a rate of 4,000 gallons per minute, which is equivalent to 50% of the total baseflow of the creek before it enters the Yahara River. This creates an ideal habitat for trout and native wetland plants. Listen and look for the bubbling springs alongside our walking trails. Quicksand and sinkholes of unknown depth occur in several areas and can be a danger to people and animals.

An extensive restoration of the creek began in 1999 and continues today to transform what used to be a mill pond to the creek you see now. There are ongoing efforts to monitor and improve the water quality in Token Creek as run-off and pollution has affected the water in recent years.

ELMER & EDNA CULVER CONSERVANCY

The Elmer and Edna Culver homesite was added to complement the restoration of the creek. This location contains the area's largest springs, multiple trails and a restored prairie.

TOKEN CREEK CONSERVANCY

OLD MILL SITE & CEMETERY

A popular picnic and rest area includes the Old Mill Site and Historic Cemetery. Here you will find a walking trail with a pedestrian bridge linking to the Raintree Conservancy and ponds.

The Cemetery dates back to some of the earliest settlers and has veteran grave stones dating back to the War of 1812, prior to the statehood of Wisconsin! There are 7 Civil War veterans buried, all of whom died in service.



FISHING

Brook, Rainbow and Brown Trout can be found in the cool waters of the Token Creek. The bridge at the Old Mill Site provides easy access for fishing. There is also a handicap accessible pier at the DNR Ponds. Urban Fishery Regulations allow the DNR Ponds to be stocked seasonally with fish for children 15 and under, and those with physical limitations.



TRAILS

Existing Network
(4.8 miles)

Planned

LOCATIONS

Big Hill 3950 STH 19

DNR Ponds 6356 Portage Rd

Elmer & Edna Culver Conservancy 3667 Egge Rd

Old Mill Site 6394 Portage Rd

Raintree Conservancy 6377 Grossepark Rd

Revere Trails Conservancy Revere Trails Subdivision

Off-Street Parking On-Street Parking Shelter Portable Restroom

FLORA & FAUNA

An abundant variety of plant life can be found at TCC. Big Bluestem and Coneflowers thrive in the natural prairies and woodland wildflowers delight in early spring. Marsh plants play a vital role in trapping sediments and assimilating nutrients in the watershed. A key objective of TCC is stewardship and management of native plants, trees and shrubs. Invasive and exotic species are identified and controlled in an environmentally responsible manner.

The Conservancy's unique habitat also has many species of birds including woodpeckers, bluebirds, warblers, herons, and cranes. Frogs serenade in the spring and turtles can be seen sunning on logs in the many ponds. Larger fauna such as deer, fox, coyote, and woodchucks also call TCC home!



VILLAGE OF WINDSOR, WI

Token Creek Hours: 5am to 10pm Ph: (608) 846-3854
www.windsorwi.gov

